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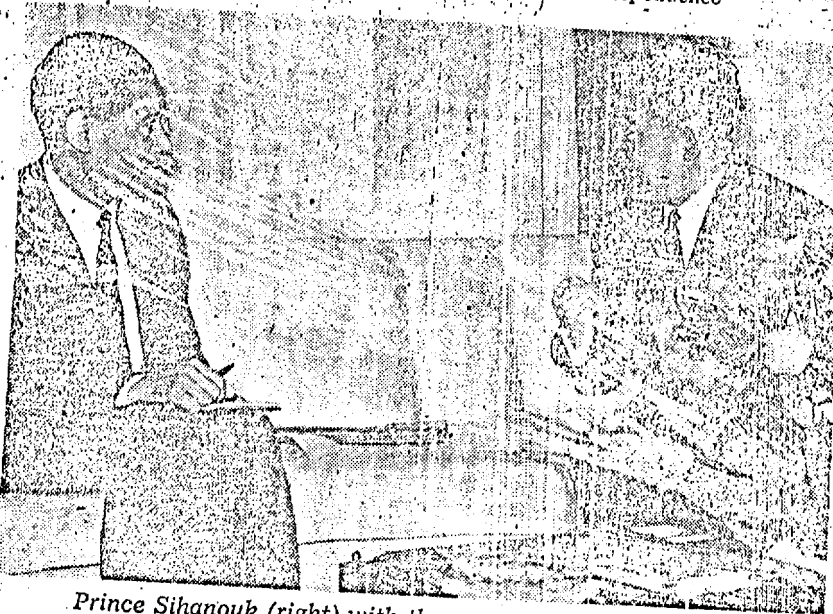
Pres Sihanouk, Norodom
Pres Worthy, William
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Cambodia's Ruler Talks of Peace Plan

Last week Cambodia's chief of state repeated an announcement that Communist China would give Cambodia weapons to equip 22,000 men, and issued a new blast at United States policy. What is his position in the present struggle for southeast Asia, and his views on its future? His answers are given in this report of an hour long interview by a special correspondent now on assignment in Asia for the Baltimore Afro-American and two national magazines.

By WILLIAM WORTHY, Journal Special Correspondence



Prince Sihanouk (right) with the reporter, William Worthy

PHNOMPENH, Cambodia—Every day the vernacular (Khmer) and French language papers here feature the appointments, official conferences and public appearances of Prince Norodom Sihanouk—the indefatigable 42 year old chief of state and strong Cambodian nationalist. A foreign visitor seeking an interview must wait his turn on a full and varied schedule. Few contemporary national leaders handle personally so many details of domestic and foreign affairs.

After almost two weeks' wait my turn came, at 10 a.m. Sunday morning—"the only time available," the prince explained in his nearly flawless English. The security measures at the royal palace, as elsewhere when the prince moves around the country, seem loose. The car bearing my interpreter and me was not stopped at the spacious grounds, nor along the quarter mile winding drive to the palace

itself. Obviously the guards, who pointed the way at each turn, knew we were coming. But at the White House or 10 Downing Street our identities would nevertheless have been carefully checked.

Prince's Nine Points

The ministry of information had told me I could count on a half hour. In fact, the interview lasted twice as long. The interpreter, not needed, waited with royal aides outside the salon where the prince received me. We sat on a long sofa.

At odds recently with the American press, charging that it has misquoted officials and misrepresented Cambodian neutralism, the prince made nine points, he feels, are poorly understood in the United States:

1. "If the United States continues its bad policy, then one day very soon it will have a Communist South Vietnam. But it is still not too late to stop the war and save South Vietnam from a complete communization."

2. Cambodia is calling a preparatory all-Indochina peace conference on Jan. 25, since the United States and Britain blocked the prince's call for a Geneva conference under the 1954 agreements that ended the French war in Vietnam.

3. Both China and North Vietnam will accept a neutral South Vietnam.

4. Cambodia refuses to be anybody's satellite, de facto or de jure.

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